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ABSTRACT

This booklet presents a simplified and improved method of writing or spelling English, which simply uses the standard 26-letter alphabet to spell words the way they are pronounced. The booklet criticizes the conventional English spelling system as unnecessarily difficult, inconsistent, and illogical and suggests that easy-to-learn "Basic English Speling" is more sensible than the current system. The booklet argues that Basic spelling can improve English speech, spelling, reading, and the quality and quantity of creative writing. The booklet also suggests that "Basic" could release school hours to other content subjects, reduce school dropouts, and provide the best solution for an international language. A list of the 500 most frequently used words, spelled in conventional English and in Basic, is included. (KEH)

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BASIC ENGLISH SPELING

AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF SPELLING
WRITTEN AS IT SOUNDS
PRONOUNCED AS IT IS WRITTEN

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In the last one hundred years, many attempts have been made to simplify and improve English spelling. The last one and the best was made as recently as 1986. To date, none has been accepted.

Basic English Speling hopes to succeed because its guiding principle is to make MAXIMUM IMPROVEMENT WITH A MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHANGES.

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BASIC ENGLISH SPELING

A Not-for-Profit Educational Organization

The English language is currently spoken by one out of every five people in the world. It is the major language in seven of the largest and most influential countries and is the second language in almost every nation in the world.

English is truly a universal language even though it has one tremendous drawback — its spelling! Many notable English speaking persons urged spelling reform over the past centuries including Andrew Carnegie, Benjamin Franklin, Theodore Roosevelt, Alfred Tennyson, Mark Twain, Noah Webster, H.G. Wells and Walt Whitman. Also in this group was George Bernard Shaw who asked why "fish" wasn't spelled "ghoti", using the **gh** from **enough,** the **o** from **women** and the **ti** from **nation.**

Pete Lee of Elkin came up with this word to demonstrate the absurdity of English spelling — **ghoughphtheightteeaux!** He used the following to pronounce this word **potatoes:**

> "In the word **hiccough, gh** is substituted for the **p.** In **dough,** there is **ough** for the **o** sound. In **phthisis, phth** is for the **t.** In **neigh, eigh** is for the **a.** In the word **gazette, tte** is for the **t.** And in **beaux, eaux** is for the **oes.** Substituting these combinations for the simple sounds in the word, it goes like this — **ghoughphtheightteeaux — potatoes!**"

J. Donald Adams wrote in his book, **THE MAGIC AND MYSTERY OF WORDS,** "As every foreigner who has applied himself to English knows, its spelling far outruns in difficulty that of his native tongue. It is wildly erratic, and almost wholly without logic. One needs the eye of a hawk, the ear of a dog and the memory of an elephant to make headway against its confusions and inconsistancies."

Most adults in the English speaking countries have taken English spelling for granted without being cognizant of its many absurd spellings. They have tolerated spelling like they tolerate the weather — good and bad — not realizing that something **can** be done about its shortcomings and irregularities!

English teachers and their students devote a disproportionate amount of time to spelling, much of which could be better devoted more effectively to content subjects.

Let those who think that all that is necessary for spelling improvement is to stress phonetics more in Conventional English (CE) spelling, review the many ways the same sound is spelled and the many ways the same spelling is pronounced. So inconsistent is CE spelling that most people find it easier to memorize the spellings than the spelling rules and their exceptions.

The spelling of three out of four words must be memorized because they are not spelled as they are pronounced. This means that 15,000 of the 20,000 most commonly used words must be memorized. People with very large vocabularies must memorize many thousands of words in order to spell them properly.

Let us place the major fault where it belongs — our spelling system is unnecessarily difficult, inconsistent and illogical. Just because we have mastered CE spelling is little excuse for foisting it on future generations and on the non-English speaking world. Why not overhaul our archaic spelling and provide a logical, effective and much simpler phonetic spelling of the English language?

We do not maintain that changing from CE to Basic spelling will solve all problems, but we do maintain that Basic will:

1. Improve spelling and reading.
2. Improve English speech.
3. Improve the quality and quantity of creative writing.
4. Release school hours to other content subjects.
5. Reduce school dropouts.
6. Provide the best solution for an international language.

Children learn to speak before they learn to read or write. It is important to remember this. When one knows the pronunciation of a word, learning to read that word will be easier if the language is written as it sounds. Why pronounce a soft **g** as a **j**? Why not simply spell it that way? For example, in the words **giraffe** and **gorilla,** the **g** is pronounced two different ways — as a soft **g** or **j** in the first example and as a hard **g** in the second example. Isn't it better to spell them as **jiraf** and **gorila**? The combination of the vowels **ea** can be pronounced four different ways and there are thousands of these words. The person who is learning English as a second language must memorize all of these words in order to spell them properly. Why not create an easier system to learn to spell them in such a way that one doesn't have to search everywhere for the correct spelling? In this last sentence there are four different pronunciations for the **ea** spelling. Advocates of spelling reform are confident that significant human and economic benefits would be realized if we were to adopt a practical and simple program to spell words as they are spoken.

Among those currently attempting to improve spelling is the Simplified Spelling Society founded in 1908 in Great Britain. It has yet to come up with an acceptable method which is easy to read.

In 1986, Edward Rondthaler and Edward J. Lias published **AMERICAN SPELLING**, an Alternative Spelling for the English Language. It is a major attempt to change English spelling into a more reasonable and sensible system. While their achievements are enormous, the way they treat the long vowels causes the method to be cumbersome. They spell the long vowels as **ae, ee, ie, oe** and **ue.** For example: **soloist** becomes **soeloeist, basic** is **baesic** and **polarize** is **poelariez.** In Basic, these would remain as they are.

The English language has many sounds; so many, in fact, that a twenty-

six letter alphabet cannot do it justice. However, these twenty-six letters can be put to much better use than they are now. It is not necessary to upset spelling as much as other reformers have suggested. Basic makes the maximum improvements with the least number of spelling changes.

A person who learns Basic English Speling will not encounter any difficulty in reading conventional English. This is one of the advantages of Basic. The millions of books, magazines and papers printed in CE will not go unused because those who have learned Basic will find CE easy to read. One of the first things that Basic wants to stress is the fact that the majority of words will remain the same. Foreign words and phrases, not an integral and common part of English, will retain their foreign spelling.

BASIC DOES NOT CHANGE ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION NOR DOES IT CHANGE PROPER NOUNS OR THE TWENTY-SIX LETTER ALPHABET.

Educators, business executives, and professional people have expressed the need for spelling reform, but thousands of individuals must also be convinced in order for the reform movement to succeed. The general public needs to get involved with the spelling reform movement and accept the measures that need to be taken. **BASIC ENGLISH SPELING** is a system that can be learned quickly and easily. Its simple rules are easy to understand and it has the advantage of being compatible with the current method of spelling. Children and foreigners aren't the ones who will have to be convinced of the need for reform or the reform itself. It is the adults who have learned the "old" system who will be hardest to convince.

Before presenting Basic spelling, we must acknowledge a powerful psychological factor: the negative reaction English speaking people will automatically direct to Basic spelling. Despite Basic's many advantages, it is impossible not to be influenced by the many years of habit formation learned in CE spelling and reading. It is just as impossible to suddenly modify these habits, regardless of one's intelligence or force of character.

Many habits and traditions serve us well, but many stand in the way of reason and progress, and an awareness of the effects of such conditioning will help in arriving at an objective evaluation of Basic spelling. In making this evaluation, some readers will thoughtfully study and examine every aspect of this booklet in order to gain a thorough understanding of Basic's principles. They will appreciate the ugent need to simplify CE and the logic of Basic in doing so, and that it does not change the familiar alphabet. They will realize that Basic is a consistent, sensible, easy-to-learn method for spelling English words.

Basic English Speling will start off with a brief resume of some of the problems encountered in English spelling. Let's enumerate some of them. We all know how to pronounce the word **business.** The **u** is pronounced

like an **i** and only two of the three syllables are pronounced. Basic spells it the way it is spoken — **biznes!** A few other words which are badly spelled include:

> **Women** which is spelled **wimen; colonel** (one of the most misspelled words in the English language) is **kernel;** and **acknowledge** is spelled as **aknollej** thus saving four useless letters in just one word.

Other problems encountered include:

1. Needless double letters.

   Are there two **c**'s or two **s**'s in **ocassional? occasional?** In **occasional** there are two **c**'s.

2. Silent letters make CE spelling difficult. One cannot find words such as the following in the dictionary if one cannot already spell them, because each starts with a silent letter: **honor, know, gnat, pneumonia, whole, wrist.**

   Why the silent letters in **though, corps, aisle, tongue, knee, receipt, daughter, knotty, knowledge, scissor, double, hymn, people,** and hundreds more?
   Basic avoids needless silent letters.

3. The same spelling but different pronunciations. Why should there be 8 different ways to pronounce **ough — ow** as in **bough; aw** as in **thought; awf** as in **cough; o** as in **though; u** as in **through; uf** as in **tough; up** as in **hiccough;** and an indefinite **uh** sound in **thoroughly?**

   Why should the changing of a single consonant change the pronunciation of a word, as in:

bead - dead	hear - pear	soul - foul
beard - heard	keen - been	toll - doll
bomb - tomb	maid - said	were- mere
do - no	plow - blow	what - chat
gone - done	quit - suit	your - pour

   Furthermore, why should the **addition** of a single consonant change the basic pronunciation of the word? For instance:

bus - bush	gown - grown	now - snow
eight - height	have - haven	road - broad
even - seven	lose - close	face - facet

   Pronunciation changes due to the addition of two or more letters are numberless: **here** and **heresy, hone** and **honest, canoes** and **volcanoes, table** and **vegetable, should** and **shoulder** to mention only a few.

It is possible to list thousands of words to prove the difficulty of CE spelling. However, the preceeding examples should suffice to point out the many problems of CE spelling.

Basic can save one or two letters in most words by simply omitting useless letters. Why add the useless **ue** to the end of the word **catalogue** or **travelogue?** Most double consonants can be single letters and Basic eliminates these, which, so often, are the worst spelling offenders. Because of this, a word such as **access** becomes simply **acses.** Basic can eliminate the double consonant in words ending in **ness** or **less** which Basic spells as **nes** and **les.**

Basic will acknowledge various differences in pronunciation, such as **either/neither** in which the first syllable is pronounced as a long **i** by the British and some Americans, while others pronounce it as a long **e**. These two words are left as they are — **either/neither.**

At present the American way of pronunciation is progressing faster to a naturally phonetic language than is the British pronunciation. Most readers will agree that the American way of spelling the following words is simpler than the British spelling, and the Basic spelling is even more simple and more phonetic than either of the others:

BRITISH	AMERICAN	BASIC
cheque	check	chek
fibre	fiber	fiber
quartette	quartet	quortet

Though the United States and the British Isles are some 3,000 miles apart, there is less difference in their spoken English than between the local dialects of Dewesbury and Howden. (Two British towns in Yorkshire, about forty miles apart.)

★★★

THE FYNAL E RULE

The most important rule in Basic is the Fynal E Rule which makes it poslbl tu retain the present speling uv thouzands uv wurds and it simplifys the speling uv meny more. This rule states:

"WHEN A WURD ENDS WITH AN **E**, THE PREVIUS VOWEL IS LONG, as in **made, here, kite, sole** and **rule.**

WHEN THE PREVIUS VOWEL IS SHORT, THE **E** is DROPD, as in **mad**(e), **her**(e), **kit**(e); or **serv** for **serve, ar** for **are, ej** for **edge.**

Another exselent exampl uv the Fynal E Rule is the wurd **live** which is pronounsd two ways — with a long **i** meening "having life" or with a short **i** meening "tu reside". In Basic this wurd is speld **live** when the long **i** sound is needed and **liv** when the short **i** sound is desired.

Along theez same lines, dubl pronunsiations allso ocur with the wurd **wind. Wind** can be pronounsd with a short **i** meening "mooving air" or with a long **i** meening "tu entwine". Basic solvs this problem by speling it **wind** (mooving air) and **wynd** (tu entwine).

THE LETTER Y

The abov wurd, **wynd**, involvs the letter **y**. This letter **y** is uezd in sevral different ways in Basic. It is allredy in ues at the begining uv a wurd wher it is a consonant, as in **yet** and **yolk**. It is allso in ues at the end uv a wurd wher it is pronounsd two ways: as a long **e** in the wurds **lady** and **baby** and as a long **i** in the wurds **by, my, shy** and **try.**

Basic duz not chainj theez ueses uv **y**. When the singl **i** is long, as in **mind, final** and **lion**, Basic chainjes theez tu **mynd, fynal** and **lyon.** When the long **i** sound is found in such wurds as **light, sight** and **fight**, Basic chainjes the **igh** tu **y** as in **lyt, syt** and **fyt.**

When wurds begin with the long **i** sound, Basic chainjes the **i** to **y** as in **yvory, ydeel, ydol, yris, yron** and **yland.** Basic keeps the ues uv the letter **i** in the prefixes **bi** and **tri** in such wurds as **bifocal, bicicl, tricolor** and **triangl.**

THE SHORT VOWELS

The short vowels ar speld as now, such as **mat, pen, sit, top** and **run.**

THE LONG VOWELS

English currently has sum sixty-five ways tu spel the five long vowels! Theez must be memoryzd in order tu spel propperly. Basic has redoosd theez tu only sixteen. Basic beleevs that not all long vowels must be chainjd. For exampl, the wurds **basic** and **baby** stay the same even tho the **a** is pronounsd as a long **a.** We du not want tu chainj the thousands uv long vowels which can stand alone. This includes not only wurds like **basic** and **baby** but meny other long **a** wurds, and allso wurds such as **zebra, bold** and **tulip.** Wurds with a long **i** sound wil be discusd later.

One myt think that we cood hav just one way tu spel eech uv the five long vowels which wood simplify speling graitly. In dictionarys, a dash is uezd abov eech long vowel. Howevver, this wil not wurk becawz tuday's typryters cannot typ this mark and it is awkward tu du this by hand.

The eleven ways that Basic uezes tu spel the long vowels, in adition tu the Fynal E Rule, drasticaly redoos the number uv rules one must memorize tu be able tu spel the long vowels propperly. The foloing is one uv the pilars uv Basic:

> **IN ADITION TU THE FYNAL E RULE,**
>
> **LONG A IS SPELD AS A AS IN baby and labor; AS AI AS IN rain and faint; AND, AS AY, OFFEN AT THE END UV THE WURD as in day and replay.**
>
> **LONG E IS SPELD AS E OR EE as in she, zebra; reed and meet.**
>
> **LONG I IS SPELD AS Y WHEN IT APEERS IN THE MIDL UV A WURD (kynd, sylent; nyt, ryt) AND AT THE BEGINNING UV A WURD, as in yland, yvory and ydentify**
>
> **LONG O IS SPELD AS O OR OA as in folo, notis; coat and boat.**
>
> **LONG U IS SPELD AS U OR OO as in tu, du, yu, tuday; pool, food, shoot and tool.** In sum cases, either the **u** or the **oo** may be interchainjd as in **dual** and **dooal.**

EA

As evryone knos, ther ar thouzands uv wurds speld with the letters **ea.** Most ar pronounsd as a long **e** such as **read, meat** and **seal;** sum ar pronounsd as short **e** such as **bread, dead** and **head;** sum ar pronounsd with a long **a** such as **break, great** and **steak;** sum ar pronounsd as a brod **a** such as **heart,** and sum as a short **a** as in **ocean.**

When the ea is pronounsd as a long **e,** Basic chainjes the **ea** tu **ee** with one exception, the wurd **dear.** This wurd wil stay the same becawz hu wood want tu receev a letter adresd tu **Deer Frend** rather then **Dear Frend?**

Exampls ar:
feer for **fear, neer** for **near, reed** for **read** and **meet** for **meat.**

When the ea is pronounsd as a short **e**, Basic drops the **a** and spels the wurd as:
bred for **bread, ded** for **dead** and **hed** for **head.**

When the **ea** is pronounsd as a long **a**, Basic chainjes the **ea** tu **ai** as in:
braik for **break, grait** for **great** and **staik** for **steak.**

When the **ea** is pronounsd as a brod or short **a**, Basic drops the **e** and spels the wurd as:
hart for **heart** and **oshan** for **ocean.**

ALL

As all English speeking peepl kno, the **a** in the wurd **all** is broad. This is tru uv the **a** in **ball, call** and **fall.** Basic wil keep them as thay ar. This makes it nesesary tu add an **l** tu other wurds such as:
allmost, allso, alltogether, allredy, ets.*

YU = YOU

Basic uezes **yu** for the wurd **you.** This now chainjes the wurd **your** tu **yur** and **you're** tu **yu'r.** The other forms uv the wurd chainj acordingly.

UE = YOO

In sum wurds like **continue, fuel** and **argue,** the **ue** is pronounsd as **yoo.** Howevver, ther ar meny wurds pronounsd like this but not speld as theez, like **few, view, beauty** and **feud.** The speling uv **yoo** is awkward so Basic wil spel the wurds with **ue**, such as:
fue, buety, fued and **vue.**

PLURALS

Evryone knos the **s** is uezd offen tu make the plural form uv the wurd as in **dogs** and **chairs,** and that **es** is uezd for wurds such as **porches, dishes** and **glasses.** In CE, **ies** is uezd in forming plurals such as **counties, babies** and **ladies.** In Basic, **all** plural wurds hav only an **s** or **es** added. Exampls ar:
dogs, boys; dishes, porches; babys, countys, ladys.

*This wurd in CE is speld **etcetera.** In Basic it is speld as **etsettera,** and the abreviation is then **ets.**

C AND CE = S

Wurds now speld with **c** which ar pronounsd as an **s**, and wurds ending in **ce**, wil be speld with an **s**. Exampls ar:

senter for **center, sivil** for **civil; chans** for **chance** and **ellegans** for **elegance.**

Ther is an exseption tu this rule, and that is when the **cent** refers tu the number one-hundred. Sum exampls ar:

cent, century, centenial, centimeter, percent.

In theez cases, the **c** wil be retaind.

K = CK

When the letters **ck** ar uezd, thay ar pronounsd as a **k**, so Basic wil drop the **c** and uez only the **k.** Exampls ar:

bak for **back** and **kik** for **kick.**

S = Z

Hundreds uv wurds ar speld with the letter **s** which is pronounsd as a **z.** Among theez ar the wurds **as, has, his** and **is.** Theez wurds ar so frequently uezd that Basic wil not chainj them.

Howevver, in sum wurds, the **s** is strongly pronounsd as a **z.** When this ocurs, Basic wil chaing the **s** to **z**, as in:

cheez for **cheese, chooz** for **choose, choze** for **chose, looz** for **lose, pleez** for **please, reezon** for **reason, theez** for **these** and **thoze** for **those.**

G AND J

When the letter **g** is pronounsd as a hard **g**, it is kept as it is, as in **sing, grant** and **dellegate.** When the **g** is pronounsd with a soft sound like the letter **j**, Basic chainjes the **g** tu **j**, as in:

apolojy for **apology, jem** for **gem, jinjer** for **ginger** and **revenj** for **revenge.**

The letter **j** is allso uezd tu replais the letters **dg** and **dge** when thay ar pronounsd as a **j** as in:

brij for **bridge, hej** for **hedge, baj** for **badge** and **ej** for **edge.**

THE PAST TENS (ED)

When the past tens uv the wurd is not pronounsd as a separat silabl, the **e** in **ed** is dropd, as in:

dropd for **dropped, stepd** for **stepped, calld** for **called** and **stampd** for **stamped.**

Howevver, when the past tens is pronounsed as a separat silabl, the **ed** is retaind. For exampl:

founded, mended, handed and **parted.**

DUBL CONSONANTS

Basic strives tu remoov as meny unnessesary letters as posibl and this is particularly tru uv dubl consonants. In the abov sentens alone, ther ar two exampls: **unnessesary** and **posibl.** The wurd **letters,** however, cannot be chainjd becawz it folos the rule which states:

WHEN THE DUBL CONSONANT IS FOLOD BY ER OR E, THE PREVIUS VOWEL IS SHORT AND THE DUBL CONSONANT IS RETAIND.

Exampls ar:

better, platter, kitten, pellet, rokket, faster, pollen, rather, and **baggej.**

This rule makes it nessesary tu add the consonant **v** tu such wurds as: **evver, nevver, rivver, howevver.**

With regard tu the wurd **rivver,** if the **v** wer not added the **i** wood be a long vowel, and it wood be pronounsd the same as the wurd **driver.**

Allso:

IN A DUBL WURD, WHEN THE LAST LETTER UV THE FIRST WURD AND THE FIRST LETTER UV THE SECOND WURD AR THE SAME, BOTH CONSONANTS AR RETAIND.

Exampls ar:

cannot, bookkeeper, misspel, earrings.

THE BROD A

Ther ar over forty sounds in the English langwej with only twenty-six letters tu represent them. Among theez ar the sevral sounds for the broad **a** which is found in wurds such as **calm, father, cabana, water** and **daughter.** Basic uezes two different ways tu spel the broad **a - aa** and **aw.** Thus the abov wurds are ritten as **caam, cabaana, wawter** and **dawter.** Basic duz not chainj the speling uv the wurd, **father** tu **faather** sinz it myt cawz too meny problems and reseev too much oposition.

THE 100 MOST FREQUENTLY UEZD WURDS*

In the list uv the 100 most frequently uezd wurds, 68 remain as thay ar while only 32 ar chainjd.

	CE**	BASIC		CE**	BASIC		CE**	BASIC
1.	the		35.	when		69.	time	time/tym***
2.	of	uv	36.	we		70.	could	cood
3.	and		37.	there	ther	71.	no	
4.	a		38.	can		73.	than	
5.	to	tu	39.	an		74.	first	
6.	in		40.	your	yur	75.	been	bin
7.	is		41.	which		76.	its	
8.	you	yu	42.	their	ther	77.	who	hu
9.	that		43.	said	sed	78.	now	
10.	it		44.	if		79.	people	peepl
11.	he		45.	do	du	80.	my	
12.	for		46.	will	wil	81.	made	
13.	was		47.	each	eech	82.	over	
14.	on		48.	about		83.	did	
15.	are	ar	49.	how		84.	down	
16.	as		50.	up		85.	only	
17.	with		51.	out		86.	way	
18.	his		52.	them		87.	find	fynd
19.	they	thay	53.	then		88.	use	ues/uez
20.	at		54.	she		89.	may	
21.	be		55.	many	meny	90.	water	
22.	this		56.	some	sum	91.	long	
23.	from		57.	so		92.	little	litl
24.	I		58.	these	theez	93.	very	
25.	have	hav	59.	would	wood	94.	after	
26.	or		60.	other		95.	words	wurds
27.	by		61.	into	intu	96.	called	calld
28.	one		62.	has		97.	just	
29.	had		63.	more		98.	where	wher
30.	not		64.	her		99.	most	
31.	but		65.	two		100.	know	kno
32.	what		66.	like				
33.	all		67.	him				
34.	were	wer	68.	see				

* **AMERICAN HERITAGE WORD FREQUENCY BOOK,** Edited by John Carroll, Peter Davies and Barry Richman, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1971, American Heritage Publishing Co., N.Y. This refferens is the same for the list uv "The Next 400 Most Frequently Uezd Wurds" on the foloing paij.

** Conventional English

*** This wurd may be speld two ways becawsz the Fynal E Rule aplys tu the long i sound; the letter y is allso uezd for the long I sound.

Uv the chainjes made in the preseeding list, notis how mynor and simpl the chainjes ar:

Uesles letters are dropd in aiteen wurds.

Sevven wurds drop the fynal **e** acording tu the Fynal E Rule.

Two drop uesles dubl consonants.

Sevven chainj the **o** to **ou** in the wurd sinz it is pronounsd that way.

Three chainj the **s** tu **z**.

Three chainj the long **e** sound from **ea** tu **ee**.

One chainjes the long **a** sound from **ea** tu **ee**.

One chainjes the long **a** sound from **ey** tu **ay**, and,

The wurd, **of**, is chainjd tu **uv** becawz it is pronounsd that way and it is uezd very frequently. It is the only wurd that Basic chainjes entirely. It must not be confuezd with the word, **off**, which reely shood be chainjd tu **of** but is not tu avoid confuezhun.

THE NEXT 400 MOST FREQUENTLY UEZD WURDS*

The wurds that ar chainjd from Coventional Spelling (CE) tu Basic ar in bold fais type. The CE speling is not givven for them.

101. get
102. **thru**
103. **bak**
104. much
105. before
106. go
107. good
108. **nue**
109. **rite**
110. **our** (hour)
111. **uezd**
112. me
113. man
114. too
115. **eny**
116. day
117. same
118. **ryt** (right)
119. look
120. think
121. **allso**
122. around
123. another
124. came
125. **cum**
126. **wurk**
127. three
128. **wurd**
129. must
130. **becawz**
131. **duz**
132. part
133. even
134. **plais**
135. **wel**
136. such
137. here
138. take
139. why
140. things
141. help
142. put
143. **yeers**
144. different
145. away
146. **agen**
147. off
148. went
149. old
150. number
151. **grait**
152. **tel**
153. men
154. say
155. small
156. **evry**
157. found
158. **stil**
159. between
160. name
161. **shood**
162. Mr.
163. home
164. big
165. **giv**
166. air
167. line/**lyn**[1]
168. set
169. own
170. under
171. **reed/red**
172. last
173. **nevver**
174. us
175. left
176. end
177. along
178. while/**whyl**[1]
179. **myt**
180. next
181. sound
182. **belo**
183. saw
184. **sumthing**
185. **thot**
186. both
187. **fue**
188. **thoze**
189. **allways**
190. **lookd**
191. **sho**
192. **larj**
193. **offen**
194. **tugether**
195. **askd**
196. **hous**
197. don't
198. **wurld**
199. going
200 want
201. **scool**
202. important
203. until
204. I
205. form
206. food
207. keep
208. children
209. feet
210. land
211. side/**syd**[1]
212. without
213. boy
214. **wunz**
215. animals
216. life
217. **inuf**
218. took
219. **sumtimes/ sumtyms**[1]
220. **fore**
221. **hed**
222. **abov**
223. **kynd**
224. began
225. **allmost**
226. live/**liv**
227. **paij**

228. got
229. **erth**
230. need
231. far
232. hand
233. **hy**
234. **yeer**
235. mother
236. **lyt**
237. parts
238. **cuntry**
239. father
240. let
241. **nyt**
242. **foloing**
243. 2
244. **pikcher**
245. being
246. study
247. second
248. eyes
249. soon
250. times/**tyms**[1]
251. story
252. boys
253. **sinz**
254. white/**whyt**[1]
255. days
256. **evver**
257. paper
258. hard
259. **neer**
260. **sentens**
261. better
262. best
263. **acros**
264. during
265. **tuday**
266. others
267. **howevver**
268. **shure/shoor**
269. **meens**
270. **knu**
271. it's
272. try
273. told
274. **yung**
275. miles/**myls**[1]
276. sun
277. ways
278. thing
279. **hole (whole)**
280. **heer**
281. **exampl**
282. **herd**
283. **sevral**
284. **chainj**
285. **anser**
286. room
287. **see (sea)**
288. **agenst**
289. top
290. **turnd**
291. 3
292. **lern**
293. point
294. **sity**
295. play
296. **tord**
297. five/**fyv**[1]
298. **uezing**
299. himself
300. **uezhualy**
301. **muny**
302. seen
303. didn't
304. car
305. morning
306. **givven**
307. trees
308. I'm
309. body
310. upon
311. family
312. later
313. turn
314. **moov**
315. **fais**
316. door
317. cut
318. **dun**
319. **groop**
320. **tru**
321. **haf**
322. **sentenses**
323. red
324. fish
325. plants
326. living
327. wanted
328. **blak**
329. **eet**
330. short
331. United States
332. run
333. **kynds**
334. book
335. gave
336. order
337. open
338. ground
339. lines/**lyns**[1]
340. cold
341. **reely**
342. table
343. remember
344. tree
345. 000
346. **cors**
347. front
348. knon
349. American
350. **spais**
351. inside/**insyd**[1]
352. ago
353. making
354. Mrs.
355. **erly**
356. I'll
357. **lernd**
358. **brot**
359. close/**cloze**
360. **nuthing**
361. **tho**
362. started
363. **ydea**
364. call
365. **livd**
366. makes
367. became
368. looking
369. **ad**
370. **becum**
371. **gro**
372. draw
373. yet
374. hands
375. **les**
376. John
377. wind/**wynd**
378. **plaises**
379. **behynd**
380. cannot
381. letter
382. among
383. 4
384. A
385. letters
386. **cums**
387. able
388. dog
389. shone
390. **meen**
391. English
392. rest
393. perhaps
394. **serten**
395. ß
396. feel
397. fire/**fyr**[1]
398. **redy**
399. green
400. yes
401. **bilt**
402. **speshul**
403. ran
404. **ful**
405. town
406. complete/**compleet**
407. oh
408. person
409. hot
410. **enything**
411. hold
412. state
413. list
414. stood
415. hundred
416. **shos (shows)**
417. 10
418. fast
419. **seemd**
420. felt
421. kept
422. America
423. **notis**
424. can't
425. strong
426. **vois**
427. probably
428. needed
429. birds
430. area
431. **hors**
432. Indians
433. sounds
434. matter
435. stand
436. box
437. start
438. that's
439. **clas**
440. **pees**
441. **sloly**
442. **surfas**
443. **rivver**
444. numbers
445. **comon**
446. stop
447. am
448. **tawk**
449. **quikly**
450. whether
451. fine/**fyn**[1]
452. 5
453. round
454. dark
455. girls
456. past
457. ball
458. girl

459. **tryd**
460. road
461. question
462. **blu**
463. **meeting**
464. **cuming**
465. **insted**
466. either
467. held
468. **frends**
469. **allredy**
470. warm
471. taken
472. **gon**
473. **fynaly**
474. summer
475. understand
476. moon
477. animal
478. **mynd**
479. outside/**outsyd**[1]
480. power
481. **sez**
482. problem
483. longer
484. winter
485. Indian
486. deep
487. **mountens**
488. **hevy**
489. **carefuly**
490. **folo**
491. **buetiful**
492. **begining**
493. **moovd**
494. **evryone**
495. **leev**
496. **evrything**
497. game
498. **sistem**
499. bring
500. **wach**

1. Theez wurds hav two acseptabl spelings. The first folos the Fynal **E** Rule wyl the second folos the rule that **y** = long **i** within a wurd.

E WITHIN A WURD

When the letter **e** is within a wurd and the previus vowel is short, ther must be two consonants preseeding the letter **e**.

Exampls ar:

ennerjy for **energy, ellevate** for **elevate, moddest** for **modest, rizzen** for **risen,** and **pressent** for **present.**

In the preseeding list uv the Next 400 Most Frequently Uezd Wurds, only 173 ar chainjd while 227 or 57½% remain the same. Agen, theez ar mynor chainjes and include droping uesles letters and the fynal **e** acording tu the Fynal E Rule, speling the long **i** sound with the letter **y**, and chainjing the letter **c** or **ce** tu **s**; Most wurds had the number uv letters decreesd, while only **elevven** wurds wer lengthend.

In Conventional English (CE) the wurds **as, has, is** and **his** all end in **s** but thay ar pronounsd as **z**. Basic wil continue this practis simply tu avoid making so meny chainjes. After all, most peepl ar not even aware uv the meny wurds pronounsd with a **z** ar speld with an **s**.

Ther ar other wurds that Basic duz not attempt tu chainj becawz the oposition tu chainjing theez particular wurds wood be enormus. In sum fuecher decade the wurds such as **mother, father, eye** and **buy** wil probably be chainjd tu **muther, faather, y** and **by** but for now Basic wil keep them as thay ar.

As yu can cleerly see, Basic English is quite eezy tu reed, ryt and spel.

After reeding this booklet, yu ar now equipd tu try yur hand at ryting with Basic. With a liti practis it wil becum quite eezy. The abov wurd lists shood giv yu an ydea uv what Basic is all about and yu shood hav no dificulty with wurds that ar not on theez lists if yu folo the fue simpl rules uv Basic. Yu wil notis that, in sum cases, wurds may be ritten in more than one way. Ther is no hard and fast rule that states that yu may uez only one particular way tu ryt the wurd. It is up tu yur discretion.

SUMARY

Basic English Speling is a major attempt at simplifying and improoving English speling. Alltho meny attempts uv this kynd hav bin made in the past, so far nun has sucseeded. Sum faild becawz the sugjested improovments wer so noomerus and complicated that the avverrej person cood not reed or ryt the chainjes propoasd. Others faild becawz too fue improovments wer sugjested. All uv the eforts faild in part becawz uv a lak uv publisity and understanding.

Most uv us in the English speeking cuntrys gro up memoryzing the speling uv thouzands uv individual wurds becawz uv the fact that the speling rules are so complicated and ther ar meny ecseptions tu eech rule that it is eezier tu simply memorize the wurds. Thoze uv us hu lern English as a second langwej strugl with the speling on a daily basis and sumtyms nevver du conquer reeding and ryting the langwej. Ther ar sum peepl hu giv up trying tu master English speling and theez peepl remain ilitterat or semi-ilitterat for the rest uv ther lives.

Why shood we continue with the current sistem uv speling when we cood hav one which is much eezier tu lern becawz it is eezy tu spel, reed and ryt if we hav the foresyt tu adopt it even tho it prodooses sum temporary inconveenienses?

Basic English Speling makes a maximum number uv improovments with a minimum number uv chainjes. Basic duz hav sum rules — all very simpl and eezy. Conventional English suffers badly from a lak uv sensibl rules. As a result uv this, a good speller must hav an exseptional memory. It is no wonder that so meny peepl in the United States ar either ilitterat or semi-ilitterat.

We must keep in mynd that thoze hu lern Basic wil allso need tu be able tu reed conventional English (CE). Ther ar millions and milions uv books, magazeens and other publications currently in print in conventional English. Basic English Speling wil need tu be tawt at the same time as CE tu adults lerning English for the first time. Children can lern Basic first which is eezier tu lern for the first time than CE. Wunz thay hav masterd Basic, thay wil be better equipd tu lern conventional English.

Sinz English allredy is uezd more than eny other as an international or wurld langwej, all that remains tu make it the ideel langwej for international comuenication is tu spel it sensibly. It is hy tym that we du sumthing about English speling!

In order tu make eny hedway in geting Basic adopted, it wil take the eforts uv meny peepl over a fairly long period uv tym and this efort shood be started now!

If we can improov English speling we wil simplify the lerning uv English. This, in itself, is a significant step in the ryt direction.

It wil not be eezy tu chainj CE speling. Most good spellers fynd litl reezon tu chainj. Thay ar blesd with exsellent memorys and lern speling quite automaticaly. Meny ar not aware uv its shortcumings.

It is a prooven fact that most peepl resist chainj if at all posibl. Chainjing the way we spel our langwej is a tremendus task — one that most peepl wil tend tu opoze. It is for this reezon that considerabl spais has bin givven at the begining uv this booklet pointing out the shortcumings uv CE. We first hav tu be aware that CE speling is fild with problems before we can be convinsd that chainjes need tu be made.

It shood be mentiond that chainjing CE speling is not neerly as dificult as trying tu convert our pressent sistem uv mezhurment tu the metric sistem. In contrast, Basic seems eezy becawz the majority uv wurds remain the same or chainj only slytly.

One uv the most important assets uv eny cuntry is a litterat population. With the meny simplifications uv Basic speling, thoze hu hav lernd tu reed, ryt and spel poorly, or not at all, wil fynd it far eezier tu lern theez when a wurd is ritten as it is pronounsd. Sinz allmost enyone can lern tu reed and spel Basic, it is posibl not only tu decrees ilitterasy but tu allmost eliminate it.

We realize that it is not posibl tu hav Basic English Speling adopted all at wunz. Sum myt think that chainjing tu Basic gradualy is the best way tu go. More than fifty yeers ago, Col. Robert McCormick instituted a number uv speling chainges in *The Chicago Tribune* when he wuz its publisher. After his deth, thay dropd all his sugjested improovments and rezoomd ading the uesles **ue** tu wurds such as **catalogue** and **pedagogue** and returnd tu uezing other absurd spelings uv CE. Ther must be a conserted efort tu chainj our speling sistem so that we don't go bak tu the old ways uv conventional speling.

Obviusly ther wil be a transitional period uv decades when both conventional English and Basic wil be uezd. Wunz this has becum the focus uv educators and the media, its ues wil spred. When milions uv peepl ar convinsd that Basic is the one sistem tu replais conventional English, we wil fynd the chainjes evident and wil be able tu proseed from that point tu a plais wher speling English is no longer the strugl it has bin.

Basic English Speling wil keep a list uv thoze hu hav requested more information about this method and wil correspond with them periodicaly tu keep them informd uv progres and developments in improoving the speling uv the English langwej.

Won't yu join Noah Webster, Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Carnegie, George Bernard Shaw and meny more in investing in the fuecher?

We invite yur comments.

Basic English Speling is a not-for-profit organization which exists only tu foster and encurrej the simplification and improovment uv English speling.

It is dependent entyrly upon yur contributions. Yur gift tu Basic English Speling is tax-deductibl.

Pleez be ashoord that all uv yur gift wil be uezd only tu promote Basic Speling. Mr. Rohner, the author, has donated his time and ennerjys, without remuneration, tu Basic English Speling.

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Traugott Rohner tawt for over twenty yeers in the Evanston, Illinois schools and at Northwestern University. He started two national magazeens which became sucsesful and are now being publishd by his son. In 1966, he publishd **Fonetic English Spelling**, a forerunner uv **Basic English Speling** (1989).